

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Pine Springs Bullhog

Proposal Number: 1341

DWR Region: Northeastern Region

Lead Agency: BLM

County: Uintah

Project Manager: Steve Strong

PM Phone: 4357816733

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 7/1/2009

Project Location: Along the seep ridge road in the book cliffs of Uintah county

Project Description: Improve approximately 500 acres of crucial elk and mule deer winter range by removing competition from pinyon and juniper trees and planting desirable species.

Description of Problem/Need: Pinyon and Juniper are encroaching into previously chained areas along the Seep Ridge Road. As pinyon/juniper densities increase, habitat value is lost due to loss of available forage and risk of catastrophic wildfire increases.

Objectives: Improve 500 acres of crucial elk and mule deer winter range by removing competition from pinyon and juniper trees and through seeding of desirable species. Reduce the load of hazardous fuels through mulching of pinyon/juniper and planting of less fire prone species.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: The area is classified as crucial/substantial winter range for mule deer, which are listed as a Tier III species in the wildlife action plan. In addition, the area is classified by the DWR as traditionally crucial brood-rearing habitat for sage grouse (a Tier II species), although sage grouse are not known to have occupied the area recently. This project benefits the shrubsteppe habitat, which is listed in the WAP as a key habitat for species of concern. The project is consistent with DWR management plans for mule deer and elk. The project is also consistent with BLM fuels reduction plans.

Potential Risks: Risk of cheatgrass invasion if seeding fails.

Proposed Methods: Project will be aerially seeded with a grass/forb mix prior to bullhog operations in the fall of 2009. Pinyon and Juniper trees will be shredded using a rubber-tired bullhog machine with mulch left on-site. BLM will issue the contracts and manage the project with DWR contributing on seed.

Shapefile Name: HPD 2010\GIS Proposals\NER1341.shp

Seed Source:

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

Vegetation Monitoring **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Repeat photopoints will be established to monitor changes in vegetation.

Grazing Management: It is anticipated that the area will not need to be rested from grazing.

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Elk

Shrubsteppe Birds

Domestic Livestock

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
BLM	547
Private	8
Total	555

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PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
BLM ARRA	\$36,832.00	3/13/2009	\$36,832.00
BLM	\$146,500.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$183,332.00		\$36,832.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
Seed (GBRC)	seed @ \$60/acre	\$30,000.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	Bullhog contract @ \$275/acre	\$0.00	\$137,500.00
Contractual Services	aerial seeding @ \$15/acre	\$0.00	\$7,500.00
NEPA		\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Motor Pool	seed transport and vehicle mileage	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Archaeological Survey	25% survey (151 acres)	\$4,832.00	\$0.00
	Totals	\$36,832.00	\$146,500.00

Project Map:

